



# THE HIGHWAY



VOLUME 2 — NO. 7

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY, 1944

## Survey & Plans Head Urges Use Of Suggestion Box

**Every Employee Should Send in Ideas Says H. W. Giffin**

In keeping with its policy of presenting the opinions of others from time to time, the Suggestion Committee invited Mr. H. W. Giffin, Engineer of Survey and Plans to express his views regarding the Highway Department Suggestion Box. We take pleasure in presenting to our readers Mr. Giffin's statement:

"For years in this Department the outlet for new ideas was not well organized. Now new ideas are not only welcomed but sought, and a new channel provided for their expression and distribution. I know the men in the Survey and Plans Division have new ideas, are expressing them, and are putting them to work as a normal procedure. But these ideas do not have enough circulation to produce the greatest benefit. They do not go far enough and come back enriched with the ideas of others added to them. The cumulative effect of adding ideas together means progress. It is almost the only road to progress."

"Notable advances in art, science, improved methods or procedure do not come from a single mind working alone. To do his best work each must be stimulated by the thoughts of others. Ideas that are expressed give rise to other ideas, the expression of which in turn uncovers a wealth of possible betterment. From the sifting and improvement process comes better policies—policies that are translated into better work and better working conditions."

"I hope every man in the Survey and Plans Division will make an effort to submit at least one idea to the Suggestion Box during this year. Of course, every idea cannot be of major importance; that isn't expected. In my experience, nine out of every ten of my own ideas I have cast aside or revised as soon as they were subjected to critical analysis. But the expression and analysis of even a bad idea often leads to a good one."

"The submission of a suggestion or idea to the Suggestion Box is in itself stimulating in that it requires concentrated thinking on how to present it. Any idea that is written in the author's best manner undergoes expansion and improvement and finally an appraisal of its worth during the writing. This is the first dividend and goes to the author. Let others share and be stimulated by our ideas. Make the Suggestion Box pay more dividends."

H. W. GIFFIN  
Engineer of Survey  
and Plans.

## Admin. Shows Way In Bowling League

With the first half of the Highway Bowling league ending in a tie between the Administration and Equipment Divisions, six teams are now contesting for honors in the final half. Plans are now under way to bring the first half winners together in a best two out of three game series to decide the champion of that portion of the race.

As the teams go down the final stretch, Administration is showing the way with 11 games won and 1 lost, followed by Equipment with 6 and 3 and Electrical with 5 won and 4 lost.

Administration also boasts of the high team average of .783, while Equipment holds the high three game score of 2563 and the high single game record of 900.

Individual highs are as follows: 3 games, Warren Oldham of Administration, .642; single game, Frank Dunn of the same division, .256; Peter Tuozzolo of Projects who holds the high average with .185.

The six teams now representing the Department in this competition are: Administration, Electrical, Equipment, Fernwood Office, Inspection, and Projects.

## Wounded Soldiers To Benefit By Suggestion

### Books, Games and Puzzles Sought for Tilton Hospital

The Suggestion Committee has unanimously approved a suggestion by Charles Fearnley of the Maintenance Division that books, puzzles and games be collected by employees of the Highway Department for the use of soldiers in the Tilton Hospital at Fort Dix.

There is an urgent need for recreational aids of this nature and it is hoped that Highwaymen throughout the State will contribute generously to this cause. Nearly everyone has articles of this nature which have outlived their usefulness in the home but which will help many a soldier wife away a pleasant hour.

If you do not have such articles in your own home make it a point to visit some of your neighbors who will no doubt desire to participate in a program of this nature. Failing in this, you can always purchase, at a nominal amount, the type of article you know would be welcome.

The Mail Room at the State House Annex in Trenton has been designated as a central receiving station for all books, games, puzzles, etc., which are contributed. From there they will be sent to Fort Dix.

Mr. Fearnley deserves credit for thinking of this idea and the soldiers deserve its wholehearted support.

## 10 Year Club Amateur Nite Set For April 18

Throughout the Department many a Highwayman is brushing up on his favorite parlor tricks in anticipation of the Ten Year Club Amateur Night. This gala event is scheduled for the evening of April 18th at the Enterprise Fire Company on Klockner Road just outside of Trenton.

The evening will start with a buffet supper at 6:30 p.m. This will be served by the ladies of the Fire Company auxiliary. Liquid refreshments of both the soft and hard varieties will be on tap throughout the night.

At about 8 o'clock the first of a series of amateur acts featuring club members will be presented. A large number of outstanding performances are scheduled and it would not be surprising to find that many Hollywood contracts will follow.

For those who would wish to go by bus, three routes are available from midtown Trenton, the Hamilton Square, Hutchinson's Mill and Kuser Road buses all passing within a short distance of the Fire Company.

Tickets for the affair are priced at \$1.50. The price includes everything. Should you care to take part as a performer, notify Bob Martin at Fernwood who will see that you are given a place on the program.

Members who remember the wonderful Amateur Nite at Tavistock several years ago are looking forward to April 18th with great anticipation.

Get solidly behind the payroll deduction Bond Purchase Plan. You help your country and yourself.

## MANY GROUPS COOPERATE FOR ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENT

### Encouraging Results Shown

"To transmit this city not less but more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

This sentence is at once the close and the climax of the Athenian Oath which the young men of Athens took as they stood in the presence of the Council of Five Hundred and assumed the responsibilities of citizenship in the 5th Century, B.C. This ancient pledge even now administered to certain public officials in our land deserves the universal acceptance by all who seek to administer their office in the public interest and in behalf of future generations.

No statement of roadside improvement could more completely set forth the goal which we, in the State Highway Department today, have set before ourselves in both the constitution and maintenance of our great network of highways, than these classic words. We have sought the development of roadsides which would reflect the standards of good taste of our people, as well as build an efficient system of roads. Our highways are the "windows" of our State. It is our plan to see that the landscape upon which we and our neighbors gaze, as we drive, is good to look upon. Thus we in New Jersey shall deserve the title of "The Garden State" which we proudly proclaim.

The first tasks to which we have set our hands are (1) to enlist the voluntary cooperation of the citizens of our State in the removal of encroachments on our public right of way and (2) the general improvement of our roadside. The State-wide conference which was held in the State Highway Department last June evoked a generous measure of public response from responsible citizen groups for such a program of roadside improvement. A Citizens Committee has been set up to advise the State Highway Department in its plan of progressive roadside improvement.

In response to a letter sent by the State Highway Commissioner to those who have maintained encroachments on the right of way, assurances both written and oral have already been received from individuals and business concerns for the removal of 2,114 encroachments. It is anticipated that all such encroachments will be removed as soon as the manpower shortage permits.

The Citizens Committee has also selected four sections along the State Highway System, including both rural and urban areas, to make a public demonstration of the way in which our roadsides should be improved in different areas. It is the hope of the Committee that we can set standards to "Which the wise can repair."

The New Jersey Roadsides Council in furtherance of this plan for roadside improvement has held its first contest for the best completed improvement of a section of the State Highway. The Montclair Garden Club was awarded first prize in this first annual contest.

These various projects are manifestly but a beginning. But they do constitute the beginning of a movement in this State for roadside improvement which deserves the support of all our citizens. It is a cooperative effort which will depend for its success on the informed opinion and enlightened public action of both individuals and organizations. In the vanguard of this effort for roadside improvement is the Garden Club of New Jersey. For their declared goal is nothing less than the immortal phrase of the Athenian Oath, "To transmit this city (State) not less but more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

SPENCER MILLER, Jr.  
State Highway Commissioner

### VICTORY GARDENS AVAILABLE FOR SECOND SEASON

The success which crowned the efforts of Highway gardeners last year has led Commissioner Miller to authorize the use of the Fernwood tract for Victory Gardens a second season.

Forms are now being distributed in the Trenton area for the purpose of determining who will farm this land in 1944. Distribution of ground will be on the basis of first

come, first served, with preference being given to those Highway men and women who farmed this ground last year.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to contact Robert S. Green and let him put your name on the list for a garden. As far as possible the same plots will be assigned as last year. Mr. Green's telephone is Trenton 2-2131 ext. 598.

## Comm. Miller Names Safety Committee

### Employee Management Group to Study Accident Causes

In an effort to reduce the number of accidents, which in the past have caused the deaths of many Highway employees and resulted in the serious injury to others, Commissioner Miller recently appointed an Employee-Management Committee to study the causes of accidents and make recommendations affecting the future safety of employees.

Commissioner Miller is particularly interested in reducing the employment hazards of men whose work along roadsides subjects them to the dangers of highway traffic.

The Committee is composed of Charles I. Levine, Claims Supervisor, Chairman; Edward E. Reed, Acting Assistant State Highway Engineer; Fred Baumann, Chief of the Laboratory; William Van Bremen, Eng. of Special Assignments; Morgan Van Hise, Chief Inspector of Highway Equipment; Don Henderson, Supervisor of Drawbridges; Earl Storer, Sr., Supervisor of Highway Maintenance; Fred A. Moetz, Laborer; William M. Dix, Maintenance Foreman; Alfred Taylor, Bridge Carpenter; and W. Carman Davis, Engineer of Special Design, Secretary.

## Highway Library Inaugurated

### Many Books Available At This Time

A technical reference library for the use of Highway employees has been started as the result of several suggestions received by the Suggestion Committee.

At the present time the library consists of many books and pamphlets which have been placed in the custody of Ernest J. Birch, Chief File Clerk, in room 230, State House Annex.

A mimeographed list of available publications has been distributed to engineering employees and supplements to this list will appear from time to time as additional material is added to the library.

Those desiring to add to this collection of technical references or seeking information as to available sources of supply should call Mr. Birch at Trenton 2-2131, ext. 354.

## Employees Association Elects Officers

At the annual meeting of the State Bridge Employees Association held January 7th, the following officers and trustees were elected:

President, James Lipari; Harold Lloyd, Vice-President; Harold Vaughn, Treasurer; Percy Stuermann, Recording Sec.; Joseph Smith, Financial Sec.; Donald Thomson, Sgt-at-Arms.

The Trustees are: Phineas Marr, Fred W. Hoffman and Thomas Brady.

President Lipari appointed the following chairmen of committees: Legislative, P. Marr; Finance, J. Smith; By-laws, H. Vaughn; Welfare, D. Burke; Membership, A. Louri; Sick, H. Silberman; Honor Roll, H. Scheltier; Entertainment, W. Koerbel; Auditing, O. Stillwell; Law and Civil Service, F. Hoffman, and Executive, J. Lipari.

# THE HIGHWAY

Published by the New Jersey State Highway Dept.  
In the Interests of Its Employees.

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## INFORMATION PLEASE

For the period of 18 months THE HIGHWAY has been sent regularly to Highwaymen now serving with the Armed Forces of the United States. During this time it has been read in every corner of the world, and if judgment may be based upon letters received, it has been a most welcome addition to the regular mail of our Servicemen.

As time goes on, however, addresses, grades and ranks change and as a result the present mailing list is becoming wholly inadequate. Too many times the paper is mailed to Alaska only to find later that the Highwayman addressed has been in the South Pacific for six months or longer. Another embarrassing experience (at least to us) is to address Staff Sgt. Smith as Pvt. Smith. It happens all too frequently because in many instances the last information received came from training camp shortly after enlistment.

To iron out most of these difficulties and bring our mailing list up to date, all Servicemen will receive with this issue of THE HIGHWAY a self addressed post card. It is hoped that every man will fill in the required information and mail it. In this way your paper will reach you with the least possible delay.

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

New Jersey State Highways have been recognized as among the most heavily traveled in the world. This fact has greatly increased the hazards of maintaining our roadsides, and as a consequence many Highwaymen have been killed or critically injured in the performance of duty.

In recognition of this fact, and because no well defined safety program has ever been instituted within this Department, Commissioner Miller has appointed an Employee-Management Safety Committee to thoroughly investigate the causes of accidents and recommend methods of curtailing them in the future.

The men who comprise this Committee are to be congratulated upon their appointment, for to them has been given an opportunity to serve their fellow employees in a definite and constructive manner. The results of their deliberations will be awaited with interest by all.

## ELECTRICAL FLASHES

Reg Bowen

The sympathy of this Division is extended to Chester Anderson, Field Assistant, and family upon the loss of their son, William Anderson, S 1/c. William was serving in the armed forces and was assigned to the gun crew of a merchant vessel at the time of the disaster.

S/Sgt. Frank Wood upon receiving a certificate of service in the Army, returned to his former drafting duties at our Fernwood office. He is retained in the enlisted reserves having served approximately eighteen months in the service and returned from the southwest Pacific area.

George McGinnis and Dick Goldy have been re-employed and are awaiting call to active duty in the Ship's Repair Unit.

Military leave was recently granted Benjamin F. Newman, bridge attendant Route 35, Shark River Bridge, in order to enter the Maritime service.

It is with regret that we were advised of the death of Mrs. William Brady, wife of Chief Operator William Brady. Bill has been employed on the Route 10, Wittpenn Bridge, since the time that the State took over the bridge maintenance from Hudson County.

## LAND AND LEGAL

Ed Drake

This department is happy to report that George R. Hood, one of our veteran title searchers, is now rapidly recovering from a heart attack suffered many weeks ago.

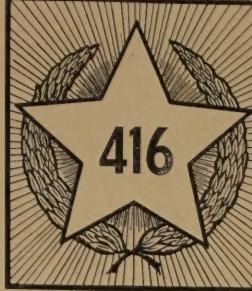
J. Layton Prout has the sympathy of his many friends over the "Missing in action" report of his son, Lieutenant Gordon Prout. Lieutenant Prout is a navigator on a Flying Fortress in the European theatre. We hope that Layton will soon hear of the whereabouts and safety of his son.

Barney Ruderman recently purchased a new home and after firing the boiler for 2 days he could not understand why the radiators remained cold. A friend of Barney's suggested that he open the valves, which he did. The house warmed up very quickly. The painters were the culprits who closed the valves before starting to paint the radiators.

Jim Kondas, formerly of the Title Bureau, is now stationed at the Naval Landing Force Equipment Depot, Newton Park, Norfolk, Va. Jim is pleased with his new assignment.

Norm. Lister is looking forward to future air cruises after his recent first plane ride over the South Pacific. Norm reports that the islands and the scenery in general are beautiful.

## Highway Honor Roll



The following is the list of those entering the Armed Forces of the United States since the last issue of THE HIGHWAY.

### Administration

Herrera, Frank ..... Navy

### Construction

Stephan, John H. ..... Army

## News from Our Men In the Service



Seaman Edwin A. Moyse of the Sidney Webster Maintenance crew was a recent visitor to the Trenton office. Ed is now a cook at the Chadwick Life Boat Station of the Coast Guard, the service he enlisted in back in October, 1942. He likes his present assignment but is looking forward to sharing some of the heroic exploits of other Coast Guardsmen in some of the war's more active theatres.

Ed wanted particularly to thank Commissioner Miller and Supervisor MacManus for their letters and says, "Keep THE HIGHWAY going to the fellows in the service."



The Sailor with the big grin is Jerry Iannaccone of the Electrical Division who has just returned from North Africa where as a member of the Sea Bees he saw his share of action. At present Jerry is enjoying a 31 days leave.

As an Electrician's Mate 1st Class, Jerry left North Africa with the first troops to sail for Sicily. The ship he was on was torpedoed and Jerry was among the lucky ones who survived.

Just prior to embarking on this

## HOW THEY DID IT IN 1922



Mrs. Ralph Evans, wife of Foreman Evans of Cape May Court House, remembers well the so-called good old days when a trip from North Jersey to Cape May took about eight hours, and when linen dusters, goggles, veils, and a thorough coating of dust were considered necessary parts of Jersey motoring.

Mrs. Evans sends this picture of "modern" State Highway road equipment as it looked in 1922, and says, "Route 4 at that time was a nice gravel road in dry weather and a nice slippery mess in the rain. After each rain the caterpillar tractor and two graders would crawl over the road, and for a day or two one could travel in comfort. Road maintenance meant long hours of scraping after every shower."

Mrs. Evans suggests that perhaps some of our readers have similar photographs of even older equipment which they might send in for publication and concludes by saying, "It would be fun to compare today's trucks and scrapers with the old timers."

In the photo Ralph Evans, then a Patrolman, is seated on the radiator of the tractor.

ill fated voyage he lived through 7 air raids in 3 days, and recalls one German fighter that plunged to earth during those days too close for comfort. In fact he and several others left the foxhole in which they were seeking shelter as the fighter came down in flames.

Before entering the service Jerry worked on an electric log for ships. This is now used as standard equipment by the U. S. and Canadian Navies.

Major Howard F. Koons, formerly stationed at Camp Claiborne, La., is now reached as follows: APO 9212, c/o Postmaster, New York City.

Lieut. (J.G.) and Mrs. Romeo A. Falcianni announced the birth of a son, Ronald Brita, on January 15th. The youngster was born at Norfolk, Va., where his dad is now stationed with the Sea Bees. Before entering the navy, Romeo was assigned to the Pleasantville Office of Survey and Plans.



Private Norman Schaja, 4201-682, 111th Evacuation Hospital (S. M.) Barracks 3, Camp Swift, Texas, writes, "We played a gentle game called 'O'Grady Says' two weeks ago and my ribs are still sore! When the sergeant does not precede a command with, 'O'Grady Says,' we are not supposed to execute it. I was one of those who missed the boat and the punishment was to run the gauntlet... So now I am going around with my ribs taped."

We went on bivouac last week . . . everything was done under cover, we even hid our mess kits under our shirts as we sneaked up to the food truck. Then when it was dark we sneaked out in squads to hunt a 'Jap' patrol. It was like playing cops and robbers in a blackout."



Lieut. John H. Hulse, USNR, 6th Batt. c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, is pretty much fed up with the heat of the tropics. In a recent letter to Jack Evans of the now defunct Cranbury Office, Hulse writes, "We are all pretty much fed up with this island. We have built everything needed and a lot of frills too. We would all like to get home for a spell and then back into something worthwhile again. I am afraid, however, that we are going to get back into things again without the pleasant interlude at home."

"The hot weather is on us with a vengeance—never in my life have I experienced such weather or suffered so much from it. Right now I would welcome a six foot snow drift."

"I saw a picture of Lou Galloni in a recent (to me) issue of THE HIGHWAY. He sure has shrunk and looks a whole lot better."

## Credit Union Names Officers

At their annual meeting the Highway Credit Union elected the following officers:

Board of Directors—Frederick M. Quinn, President; W. Eugene Beckner, Jr., Vice-President; Mary J. Filippini, Secretary; John A. Kilpatrick, Treasurer; Flavin A. Ireton, Director of Records and Projects; Alex Cohen, Director of Publicity and Education and John H. Patrick, Director of Divisional Representation.

Credit Committee—Otto F. Segel, Chairman; William Rogers, Secretary; Arthur J. Lichtenberg, Harry Fowler and John I. Gleekman.

Examining Committee—Oliver F. Lozier, Chairman; Frank O. Skillman and Herman N. Kramer.

At the close of business January 31, 1944, the Credit Union had 110 members and assets amounting to \$1,773.97.

Office of the treasurer is located at 148 W. State St.

## PROJECTS PARAGRAPHS

E. L. MEYER

Belated thanks are certainly due the Projects Engineers for the fine Christmas party they arranged for our office employees on Dec. 28th. About 35 persons attended, including Carpenters Mate Clarence Chumar just home from the South Pacific battle zone. He was accompanied by Mrs. Chumar. It was a nice affair and all present had a swell time.

**Major Al Faxon and Commander Guido Forster** were both in town for Gov. Edge's inauguration but since it was a holiday most of us unfortunately missed them. Better luck next time.

Sympathies are extended to Bill Carnival upon the loss of his mother. Mrs. Carnival passed away on January 10th.

**Sgt. Ed Scott**, formerly Mr. Harris' secretary, dropped in recently for a chat and informs us that he is still at Dix and still railroading.

**John Houman**, who spent some time on the Alcan Highway has been turned down in his physical for the army for the 6th and final time. This must be some sort of a record.

**Charlie Hunt**, who as president of the Ten Year Club sponsored its one and only "amateur night," is enthusiastically looking forward to the Spring dinner when another similar venture is carded. Charlie can hardly wait, but we don't know whether his enthusiasm arises from a desire to participate as an entertainer or a spectator.

### Helbling to the Rescue

**Rea Helbling**, Vineland Garage Mechanic, was driving to work through the town of Elmer recently when a woman of foreign extraction ran screaming from her home.

Sensing an emergency, Helbling stopped his car long enough to learn that the woman had swallowed bichloride of mercury tablets by mistake. He then sped off in search of a doctor whom he conducted to the scene.

Returning from work that evening, Ray stopped at the doctor's office to inquire after the woman's condition. He was informed that the pills she had swallowed contained an insufficient mercurial content to prove fatal but that his prompt action had nevertheless been greatly beneficial to the patient.

Helbling should be congratulated for adding a new episode to the long list of emergency services which have been rendered to the public by Highway employees in the past.

**Help our wounded soldiers.**

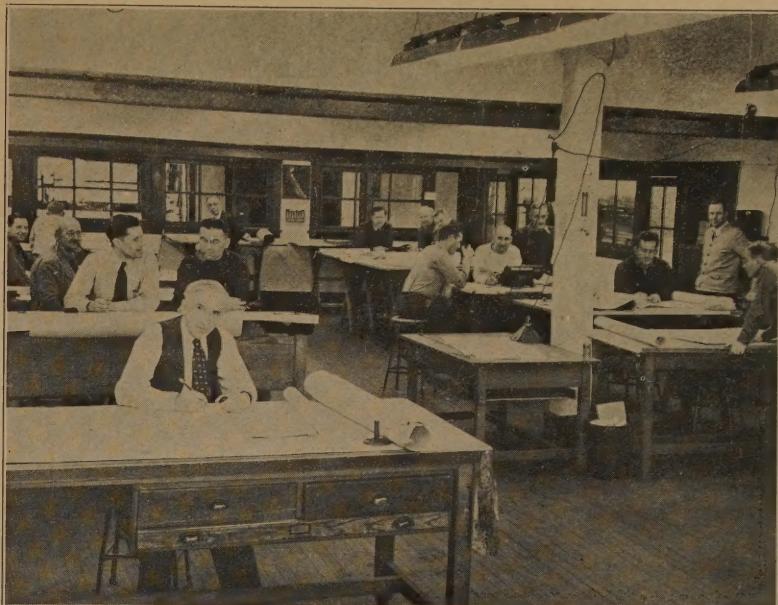
See page 1

**DUMB-BELLS**  
REGISTERED U.S. PATENT OFFICE

HOW STUPID THEY MUST BE  
TO THINK ANYTHING  
WOULD GROW ON A  
PAVED STREET!



## MEET THE PERTH AMBOY GANG



As a step in Commissioner Miller's plan to modernize the Survey and Plans field offices, the Electrical Division recently installed fluorescent lighting in the Perth Amboy office of T. E. Olsen. The effect was aptly described by one of the men who said, "It was just like taking the roof off."

In the above photo, taken by James L. Hays, Chief Electrical Engineer, many of the men associated with this office can be identified. On the left side of the room, reading from front to rear are: W. Harris, G. C. Jorgenson (left) and M. Levy, G. S. Bryan, H. Gerber, P. S. Jensen (back to camera) and T. E. Olsen.

On the right side of the room to the right of the column are T. J. Whalen (seated), M. J. Westergard (standing) and J. E. Dederick. The next group of three from left to right are: C. G. Curry, A. J. Wineas and J. J. Feeley, Jr. The group in the far corner are from left to right, C. F. Smyth, J. W. Hiller and Wm. Reins.

The following members of the Perth Amboy office were busy elsewhere at the time the picture was taken: H. B. Davis, E. McMahon, G. H. Schrader, G. W. Conover, V. T. McGrath, I. E. Campbell, R. Erb, R. M. Soden and H. M. Brown.

Many veteran employees are assigned to this office. Olsen and Hiller look back on 26 years with the Department while Conover, Davis and Dederick each have served for 24 years. Others who might well be classified as veterans are: Harris and Reins (22), Jorgenson, Westergard and McMahon (16).

Hobbies run all the way from architecture and photography to roller skating, with such part time activities as art, horticulture, mechanics, bridge, youth activities and gardening filling in the gap. In fact, nearly every man at Perth Amboy has "after work" interests.

About 50% of these men are now taking the Soil Mechanics course in an effort to find out what dirt is made of and why its acts as it does under various conditions. They are naturally a bright group and this is not intended as a pun on the new lighting.

## CONSTRUCTION COMMENTS

Fred C. Claus

### Upper Montclair

There is much head scratching and many furrowed brows in the Montclair office these days as memories revert to classroom struggles with the three Rs. Seventeen of us are now attending the course in Soil Mechanics given by Princeton University in Newark. As one was aptly put it, "Sorta starting from the ground up."

**Tech. Sgt. Joseph Barragone**, who entered the service in September 1940 with the National Guard, has received a medical discharge as the result of injuries received during training operations. Welcome back to civilian life, Joe.

The following is a list of "our boys" now serving in the armed forces. Their addresses are being published so that you will write each of them a few lines from time to time.

**Major W. L. Braybrooke**, C. E., HQ. U. S. Armed Forces of Middle East, Survey Liaison Office, A. P. 787, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

**Tech. Sgt. Jos. Baragona**, H. & S. Co., 104th Eng'r. Com. Amphibious Train. Forces, Fort Ord, Cal.

**Robt. Finch**, S 1/c, U. S. N. T. School E. E. G. R. M. 166 Cordell Hall, Stillwater, Okla.

**Sgt. Raymond H. Callahan**, "A" Battery, 12th Bn., 4th Reg. F. A. R. C., Fort Bragg, N. C.

**Capt. Ronald Crawford**, 0-335040, Hq. & H. S. Co., 817th Eng. A'ns, A. P. O. 502, San Francisco, Cal.

**Tech. Sgt. Edwin C. Young**, 32452822, H. & S. Co., 845 Eng. A'ns, A. P. O. 528-2, New York, N. Y.

**Corp. Dudley E. Demerest**, 32561938, 3rd Ferrying Group, 5th Flying Squadron, Romulus, Mich.

Much interest has been aroused in recent weeks as a result of the titanic bowling struggle going on every Wednesday noon between the Railroad Grade Crossing Engineers, represented by Messrs. Jim Kersey and Jerry Osborn, and the Federal Aid Engineers represented by Messrs. Walt Voorhees and Lew Hall. At present the contest stands even steven . . . **Mary Filippini**, Alex. Cohen and Fred Quinn elected to the Board of Directors, Harry Fowler to the Credit Committee and Oliver Lozier to the Examining Committee of the Highway Credit Union . . . Mr. Giffen sending his paper on "Transverse Joints in the Design of Heavy Duty Concrete Pavements" recently presented before the National Research Council at Chicago, for publication . . . **Henry Stephan**, Harry Fowler and Oliver Lozier attending the Structural Analysis Course given at Trenton Central High School under auspices of Princeton University . . . **Ollie Dell** still straining at the leash in Merry Ole England . . . **Frank Armstrong** from Australia describing highway construction down there . . . **Johnny Madden** feeling the hot breath of his Draft Board . . . **Lorraine Finke** enjoying winter sports in upstate New York over a recent weekend.

## Administration Division

ARTHUR EGAN

**John Egan** has become an unofficial press agent for the current hit "Oklahoma," either through interest in Americana or one of the east. At any rate John makes frequent trips to New York and is in a beautiful coma for days following.

With two sons in the navy, **Elgin Mayer** has more than a passing interest in his part-time war job of making life rafts for use by our fleet. The products of Elgin's handiwork stand in readiness on the seven seas.

**Tom Russo** is a stranger in his own home as the result of the jury duty that has been added to his regular auditing job and the part-time work he is doing in a local aircraft factory. He sees his family only on Sunday.

**Chatter:** We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hurley upon the death of Mrs. Hurley's mother, Mrs. Mary Gunson. **Cliff Wear**, Mileage Director for Department has moved his desk to the Highway Board Room (where he has added to his duties). Seeing **Lee Grover** busy with the arrangements of the forthcoming Highway Conference recalls many interesting experiences at similar affairs in the past . . . We were fortunate in seeing some interesting photos from opposite sides of the world recently. **Evelyn Mayley** has some excellent shots of England, sent home by hubby Jack, and **Marvin Howell** received photos from his son Captain Wellington Howell stationed in the New Guinea theatre of war . . . **Frank Laconchek** is again to say hello . . . Welcome to two new misses in the Administration Division, **Mary E. Cunningham** and **Helen C. Parsons**, assigned to the Cost Department and Mail Room respectively . . . **Norman Smith**, **Lawrence Zazzo**, **Frank Tindall** and **John Sullivan**, Construction Inspectors have been temporarily assigned to Administration to assist with the annual inventory at Fernwood. The change perhaps was not too good for Tindall for he has since entered a local hospital for an operation.

**BRING THAT PUZZLE, GAME, OR BOOK TO THE MAIL ROOM FOR OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS . SEE PAGE 1.**

Our sympathies are extended to **Nick Carnival**, Truck Driver, upon the loss of his mother who passed away on January 10th.

## EQUIPMENT ITEMS

James O'Rourke

**Pat Remo**, Equipment Operator, and Mrs. Remo passed up the opportunity of enjoying a summer vacation so that they might spend the Christmas holidays with their only son, an aviation cadet stationed in Arcola, Fla.

After making hotel and travel reservations they received a telegram, two days before their departure, notifying them that their son, John Paul, had been transferred west. They are now planning another trip which they hope will have a more successful conclusion.

Word has been received from several Fernwood servicemen that the fruit cakes which were purchased from the flower fund arrived in good condition, and best of all, before Christmas. Those who have reported receiving them are: **Stewart Long**, in Cieraco; **Reynolds Brochelli**, whose cake reached him in Newport after it had gone to Alaska; **Jack Boulden** in Australia, and **Joe Murray** in Italy.

**John Rochford**, Fernwood's Irish thrush, sang at the wedding of his daughter on January 4. The groom, **Sgt. James Brothers** of the U. S. Army, will be better remembered as one of **Earl Storer's** traffic line gang. Jimmy has been in the army for 22 months and is at present stationed at Camp Reynolds near Pittsburgh.



The above picture of **Joe Carr**, one of the three sons of Maintenance Supervisor, **John Carr**, was received recently from Lincoln Field, Neb., where Joe is taking his pilot's training. Joe reports that he is about to go to a plane factory near Niagara Falls for advanced training, and that the whole experience is a far cry from the mudjacking work with the Highway of the past ten years.

Fernwood fishermen, including **Joe Smith** (Catfish for short), **Andy Foster**, **Charlie Hart**, **Bob Ettinger** and **Frank Devereux** are confounded by the report passed on to them by **Joe Thiel**, whose son, Joe, Jr., is stationed with the Marines near a salt water lake in the South Pacific.

According to a recent letter received by Joe, the Marines go out in the lake, beat an ear against the bottom of the boat, and wait for the fish to jump into the boat. While they don't doubt the story, the local followers of Isaac Walton are wondering what you do before you get in the boat.

**Willard Emmons** was tendered a surprise dinner in Trenton on January 27th, in recognition of his 25 years with the Equipment Division. Those attending were: **Frank Young**, **Frank Devereux**, **Morgan Van Hise**, **Harvey Butterfield**, **Joe Pate**, **Jack Rochford**, **Tom Gadsby**, **Larry Gore**, **Jim O'Rourke**, **Ed Crawford**, **Bob Ettinger**, **Tom Ettinger**,  **Hobart Shreve** and **Bob Martin**. Willard, who came with the Highway Department on January 19, 1919, was presented with a pen and pencil set as a reminder of the esteem in which he is held.

It was originally planned to hold a much larger affair but such arrangements were impossible to carry out due to rationing. The committee in charge wishes to extend its apologies to all who would have participated in this testimonial and were prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond the control of all concerned.

# "Colonel" Frank O'Brien Looks Back On Colorful Career

Veteran Blacksmith Known To Millions of "Post" Readers

Should you glance into the outer office at Fernwood you will very likely see a solidly built, elderly man busily engaged in tabulating various reports for the Equipment Division. If you are a stranger to these parts, you may not recognize him as an old friend, but the chances are that you are one of America's millions who has spent a pleasant hour with him in the past, one of a group indulging in political small talk, or swapping stories of horse racing, within the confines of his blacksmith shop—a spot made famous through a series of stories which have appeared in the Saturday Evening Post.

The proprietor of this shop was Frank O'Brien, today affectionately known to his intimates at Fernwood as "Colonel." He came to the Highway Department in November, 1926, somewhat after the automotive age had definitely written finis to the careers of as hardy a group of men as could be found. Fortunately, through the writings of his son, Edward W. O'Brien, a former Highwayman, those days can be relived in all their romance.

As a young man Mr. O'Brien started out to be a doctor. In fact, he was taking his pre-medical course with a Trenton M. D.—a custom prevalent in those days—when he succumbed to a desire to become a blacksmith.

#### Spurned Russian Offer

After mastering his trade and working for a time with a well known smithy named Jake Valentine, "Colonel" O'Brien went to the Penn Valley Stud Farm near Morrisville, Pa., where he drove and shod some of the fastest trotters in this country, among them Anteo, the second most valuable stallion of that day. As a reminder of those pleasant years he still cherishes a watch fob made from the tail of Midnight Chimes, a racer whose memory is dear to the hearts of harness horse lovers.

During his tenure at Penn Valley, Mr. O'Brien studied the structure and diseases of horses'



FRANK O'BRIEN AND TIM

hoofs under a veterinarian, and this knowledge, coupled with his ability as a driver and blacksmith, led to an offer to go to Russia, where the famous Orloff strain of trotters was coming to the fore.

He turned down this opportunity to travel, however, in favor of opening his own shop on Mill Street in Trenton, where for many years his fame as a moderator in all sorts of discussions was rivaled only by his ability to shoe horses. So skillful was he at the anvil that his friends prevailed upon him to send samples of his handiwork to the Paris World's Fair where they were exhibited.

Frank O'Brien is a man of few words but he will proudly tell you that during his 30 years as a blacksmith he never had a lock on his door, and when the day came that he closed his shop for the last time he owed "nary a man a dime."

In the above photo the "Colonel" is shown with his son Tim, now a well known Trenton dentist who is serving overseas with a combat engineers regiment. A glance at dad's hands reminds us of Longfellow's immortal lines, "The smith, a mighty man was he."

**Jack Koffler** recipient of civilian award for efforts in Newark Airport expansion program... Breezy letter from **Paul Gabrenas** in Cincinnati. Paul gives us the low down on everything from Kentucky justice to hill billys... **Bill Tange** still on the sick list...

**Sam M. Rankin** now with the Navy and writing from Brooklyn, sends a few vital statistics on the 45,000 ton U.S.S. Missouri. Sam observed the launching and with thousands of others felt a tingle of pride as the mighty battleship hit the waters of the East River. Battleship briefs: Keel laid Jan. 6, 1941, main batteries 16" guns, overall length 880 feet, area of decks equivalent to 18-story office building 150' square, 90 miles of piping, 15,000 valves, 300 miles of electric cable, 900 electric motors, 844 doors, 852 manholes, 15 miles of wire and manila rope and 312,000 pounds of paint. Four million feet of welding went into her construction and 175 tons of blue prints were used in the plans.

A baseball pitcher would have to pitch 9458 baseball games of 9 innings each to hurl the 1,135,000 rivets that were used in her construction.

Sam is still busy on shakedown cruises taking him to sea for several days at a time. He "loves" it.

**BRIEFS:** **Walter C. Devereux** severing his connections for the duration on completion of bridge over Cheesquake Creek on Route No. 35... **L. C. Petersen**, genial as ever, celebrating his 25th year with the Department on Jan. 19th—by working... **Chester Appleton** vacating... **Leon Chatten** and **Al Herron** now of Eastern Aircraft also enthusiastic members of the Trenton Kennel Club... **Arthur Stetzer** also going to the dogs waiting for some winter weather to remind him of Alaska... **Stacy Fine**'s chicken farm in production. The graph has levelled off at 3½ eggs per day... **Simon Umberger**, **Fox**, **Petersen** and **Titsworth** enrolled in Princeton University course in Structural Analysis...

## LABORATORY LINES

Abram Watov

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Joe McGrath, Material Inspector, who received a telegram from the Navy Department to the effect that his son, William J. McGrath, was missing in action while on patrol duty in a Martin Bomber in the South Atlantic.

The Lab personnel is also mourning the deaths of Daniel McCarthy, Asphalt Plant Inspector, and Bill Backes, who was formerly employed by the Lab as a Material Inspector. Both these men are veterans of World War I. Commissioner Miller sent a touching letter of condolence to Dan's widow, extolling Dan's service to the Highway Department for many years.

The Lab was honored by a visit from Private Ed Baumann, Asphalt Plant Inspector, formerly at Camp Croft, S. C., and at present assigned to Camp Meade, Md., awaiting a new assignment after completing his basic training.

Corporal George Goeller, Ass't Testing Chemist, was recently discharged from the Tilton Hospital at Fort Dix, and is now at Camp Upton, N. Y., awaiting a new assignment.

The Laboratory Social Club held its annual dinner on Feb. 7 at the Bloomingrove Farms. There were 24 in attendance and a fine roast beef dinner was enjoyed by all. President Leon Cartidge presided at the business meeting, at the conclusion of which a program of movies depicting all phases of Navy life was shown through the courtesy of Chief Petty Officer

## MAINTENANCE NOTES

GENE BECKNER

**Mrs. Eleanor Elston** was a recent visitor to New London, Conn. The occasion was the graduation of her son, Conwell, from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Conwell, who enlisted in the Coast Guard in April, 1942, was commissioned an Ensign upon his graduation. Conwell made the grade up through the ranks and we congratulate him upon this achievement. He is now stationed at the U. S. Marine Base, New River, North Carolina.

**Foreman Bert Wood's** maintenance crew suffered serious injuries through illness during January. Three members of his crew, **Pete Duels**, **George Wright**, and **Raymond Orpen**, were confined to their homes the greater part of the month. Duels and Orpen have since returned to work, but at this writing George Wright is still under the doctor's care.

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lanza** attended the Metropolitan Opera performance of Puccini's "La Tosca" at New York on Thursday, February 3rd. Grace Moore and Lawrence Tibbett were the headliners and Mike reports a most

Briest, who is in charge of Naval recruiting in this area.

**Jack Marren's** boy, John D., is at present completing his boot training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. John was Captain of the Color Guard of the American Legion Post No. 93 of Trenton for many years.

Second Lieutenant Ray Wall is now stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. Down there with anti-aircraft, Officers Provisional Training Battalion.

creditable performance. Mike, an opera devotee from way back, boasts of an excellent collection of operatic recordings. Any other opera lovers in the house?

**Mike Ondy**, whose wife was stricken seriously ill some months ago and has been practically bedfast ever since, has been carrying on in magnificent fashion. With the current difficulty in securing domestic help, Mike has found it necessary to assume most of the household chores in addition to his regular work. Together with his twelve year old son, Mike has been managing to carry on. His well-deserved reputation as an "Iron Man" is undergoing a thorough test. Mike has our every sympathy and hope for an early recovery for his wife.

Don't look askance at **Russ Geller** when he suddenly bursts into song these days. It's just doctor's orders. When Russ got those new upper teeth suggested that Russ carol a bit every now and then to accustom himself to the new teeth and Russ believes in following the doctor's orders.

**Preston H. Gano**, member of **Paul Haney's** maintenance crew, is now confined to the Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. Preston was stricken with a serious ailment early in January and will be hospitalized for some time.

**Captain LeRoy W. Bensel**, son of **Roy Bensel**, Projects Inspector now assigned to this Division, was a recent Trenton visitor on leave from his assignment with the 12th Armored Division, Camp Barkeley, Texas. Captain Bensel, who was formerly associated with this Department at the Laboratory, drove through from Texas with his wife and ten months old daughter, Bonnie Kay. Roy, Sr., relates that this young'un is known as "Little Iodine" at her father's post. Sounds like she takes after her paternal granddaddy.

An apology—Also present at **Florence King's** now famous tea party was **Mrs. Ethel Weiss** (nee Lessy), of the Construction Division. How we neglected to properly report Ethel's presence we can't understand. As a matter of fact, we understand she "poured" at tea."

**Lee Wilkinson**, member of **Henry Henken's** maintenance crew down around Vincentown, has been released from the Philadelphia Naval Hospital and is now at home. Lee, a veteran of the First World War who also saw service in the current one from December, 1942 until April, 1943, when he received his honorable discharge, has been having a real siege of illness. Here's hoping he will be back on the job before long.

**John Radice**, one of **Pete Ehrhart's** bridge painters who have been engaged in painting the Pulaski Skyway, has been ordered by his doctor to remain at home for some time to recover from a heart ailment.

In connection with the current program for Roadside Improvement which has been underway for some time, **Phil Voss** recently directed a questionnaire to the various municipalities throughout the State to determine what local zoning ordinances, building codes, shade tree commission regulations, etc., might be in existence which would affect this program. Responses have been most encouraging from many municipalities and a valuable file of information is being secured. The prize reply, however, comes from the Borough of Lakehurst who returned the questionnaire sent them with this single notation: "No more restrictions than the Indians had."

The above item reminds the writer of a collection he took up in the office several years ago when the Metropolitan was canvassing for funds from the radio audience. He very carefully refrained from informing prospects of the object of the collection until the money was in hand and then disclosed the purpose. The rejoinders then received were something to remember. One member of the anti-opera camp even went so far as to offer to double his contribution if he would sponsor a campaign to get them off the air. (P.S.—I collected ten bucks and the Met is still going strong).

## Freedom Is a Word

Freedom is a word.  
A word that looks at you  
From many pages and heard on many lips.  
A word that men are dying for,  
And women and children too;  
A word men whisper in the night  
As a promise across the whole wide world.

Freedom is a word.  
A word we teach our children.  
Americans have died for it since Bunker Hill,  
And many more will die.  
For Freedom, our heritage,  
Is also our responsibility.

Harry D. Robbins,

## MAIL THE HIGHWAY TO SERVICEMEN



JAMES MARTIN



CLYDE CASE

Here are the men who send THE HIGHWAY to our Service men. On the left is James Martin of Mr. Grover's office who each month addresses envelopes to salaried employees all over the world. Jim is a disabled veteran of World War I and he knows from experience the importance soldiers and sailors attach to word from home.

Our hourly Servicemen also receive THE HIGHWAY. It is sent to them by Clyde W. Case, the congenial looking chap on the right. Clyde takes a personal interest in seeing that each of "his boys" receive every issue—in fact he addresses the envelopes himself. The questionnaire postal our Servicemen will receive with THE HIGHWAY in February is the result of Case's desire to keep posted on every man.

Both of the fellows are doing a swell job of keeping Highwaymen in far off places in contact with the latest news of the Department.

